

Grants by Grant Cycle

Grants matching your search for 2015-16 Farm and Ranch Cleanup and Abatement Grants (FR56)

Mendocino County

Grantee: Mendocino Solid Waste Management Authority

Amount Awarded: \$195,540.00

Grantee Contact: Mr. Michael Sweeney

CalRecycle Grant manager: Carla Repucci

Project Summary: This project is named the Lost Coast Cleanup. It will clean up illegal trash dumping and environmentally-hazardous materials from four sites of timberland in the Indian Creek watershed of northern Mendocino County. This project will remove the debris from approximately 55 abandoned marijuana growing operations and support the state-funded conservation easement over 3,000 acres that will be restored to sustainable forestry.

Total Awarded for County:\$195,540.00

Sonoma County

Grantee: Sonoma County

Amount Awarded: \$49,578.00

Grantee Contact: Karen Fies

CalRecycle Grant manager: Carla Repucci

Project Summary: This project is a multi-year, multi-agency collaboration to clean up a single site of garbage and debris along two privately owned ranches (3 parcels) actively in commercial agriculture in Sonoma County, California. The properties are directly adjacent to the Laguna de Santa Rosa and encompass confluences of the two largest tributaries in the watershed – Santa Rosa Creek and Mark West Creek. As a result of this unique location, trash and woody debris from the greater Santa Rosa, California (population 172,000) collects on these properties causing localized flooding and agricultural losses, as well as a human and environmental health hazard.

In June, 2015, in partnership with Sonoma County Water Agency, the Sonoma County Human Services Department, Social Advocates for Youth, the Sonoma Biochar Initiative, and landowners, the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation launched an effort to clean up the garbage and debris along a 2-mile section of the Laguna. The Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation (Laguna Foundation) is a 501c3 non-profit organization with a mission to restore and conserve the Laguna de Santa Rosa watershed. The total acreage of the parcels affected by trash is 758 acres. The trash is confined to approximately 1.25 acres. Phase I of this cleanup project was largely funded locally and largely completed during late summer/early fall 2015. This application for funding seeks to finish the cleanup in the summer of 2016 by employing the successful strategies and partnerships used previously and retroactively reimburse aspects of the project that were insufficiently funded during the summer of 2015.

During the summer of 2015, the Youth Ecology Corps (YEC) removed approximately 20 cubic yards of mixed garbage and recycling, 150 tires, several small electronic devices, 3 cubic yards of construction debris, and 1000 cubic yards of cut wood and lumber. The YEC is a workforce training and ecosystem education program aimed at employing youth and young adults while teaching them about environmental stewardship. YEC is supported by a coalition of organizations including Social Advocates for Youth (SAY), Sonoma County Human Services, and the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA). SCWA is a special district in the County responsible for water distribution and flood protection.

During the summer of 2016 (Phase II), YEC members will return to the site to hand-remove remaining trash and debris from the Denner Ranch property and the Rancho Laguna property. A qualified heavy equipment operator will support debris removal by YEC. The Laguna Foundation will provide general project management and the Sonoma County Health Services will provide project review and reporting. Costs also include involvement of the the Sonoma Biochar Initiative to dispose of woody debris in an ecologically sensitive manner. The Sonoma Biochar Initiative seeks to educate land managers about the benefits of ecologically sensitive “conservation burn” techniques for woody debris disposal. SBI will provide guidance into burn pile construction and proper ignition to reduce green-house gas emissions and effective and timely extinguishing of burn piles to produce biochar – an agriculturally beneficial byproduct thereby turning the woody waste into a valuable product. Trash is the result of litter, homeless encampments, illegal dumping. Due to the location of the site in the floodplain, we suspect many neighboring rural residential landowners and tree-trimming operations leave down wood to “wash away” with winter flooding unaware of the significant damming and agricultural losses that arise from this debris downstream. While not often thought of as garbage, cut lumber is a significant waste product on the site and not naturally occurring. Nearly all the lumber contains obvious chainsaw cuts and is not the result of downed trees. Any trash and recycling will be removed from the site, sorted, and properly disposed of.

The Rancho Laguna property is also the subject of planning grant application that should identify restoration opportunities to restore ecological function and allow for the capture of trash and debris deposited by floodwaters. In addition to future restoration, due to changing regulations regarding the effect of trash on water quality, the City of Santa Rosa will likely be required to install trash catching devices on outfalls leaving the city. Implementation of trash catchers and future restoration should drastically reduce the trash and debris problem on the Rancho Laguna and Denner Ranch property downstream.

Total Awarded for County:\$49,578.00

Grant Count: 2

Grand Total for Selected Counties: \$245,118.00